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Identical letters dated 3 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 May 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing overt aggression by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. During the period from 16 to 28 April 2000, United States and British military aircraft carried out a total of 289 hostile sorties, including 154 from Saudi Arabia, 77 from Kuwait and 58 from Turkey. The letter also reaffirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend the inviolability of its territory and to seek compensation for the damage caused by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Saeed **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 3 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, between 16 and 28 April 2000, United States and British military aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out a total of 289 aerial sorties, of which 154 were from Saudi Arabia, 77 from Kuwait and 58 from Turkey. The details are given below:

1. *The northern region*: 58 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres:

(a) At 1100 hours on 16 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 16 sorties, overflying the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Irbil and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 17 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 22 sorties, overflying the Dohuk, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Rawandoz, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Irbil and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1045 hours on 25 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 16 sorties, overflying the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Zakho and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. *The southern region*: 231 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres:

(a) At 2050 hours on 17 April 2000, United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out eight sorties, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Taqtaqanah, southern Samawah and Ushbayjah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2115 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2220 hours on 18 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 sorties, 24 from Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Ukhaydir, Salman, Jalibah, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Qarnah and

Samawah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2330 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1640 hours on 22 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 sorties, 16 from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Taqtaqanah, Salman, Busayyah, Jalibah, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Basra, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Samawah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1815 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1150 hours on 24 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 sorties, 16 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 18 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Salman, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Rumaythah, Nukhayb, Basra, Najaf, Samawah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1050 hours on 25 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 45 sorties, 28 from Saudi airspace and 17 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Taqtaqanah, Salman, Jalibah, Hayy, Artawi, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Basra, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Samawah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1210 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1000 hours on 26 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 sorties, eight from Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Shatrah, Salman, Jalibah, Safwan, Artawi, Rifa'i, Qurnah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih and Samawah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1100 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1050 hours on 27 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 sorties, 24 from Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Salman, Jalibah, Lasaf, Basra, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Samawah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 0955 hours on 28 April 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 sorties, 30 from Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an AWACS

command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. The aircraft overflew the Salman, Ushbayjah, Nukhayb, Taqtaqanah, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Samawah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1100 hours, drove them off.

These acts of aggression represent the continuation of a consistent policy of hostility against Iraq that has been pursued by the United States of America and the United Kingdom since 1992 and is aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, deliberately and systematically bringing death to Iraq's citizens and inflicting damage upon its infrastructure and civilian installations. This policy has been confirmed by the repeated statements of United States and British officials purporting to defend the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom pursuant to a unilateral decision which has no legal basis or legitimacy. Iraq rejects all measures taken on the basis of this illegal decision and, in particular, the fabricated excuses and pretexts used by those two States in efforts to disguise their military aggression against our country.

The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and United Kingdom makes them full accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and they must share international responsibility for these acts committed against the Iraqi people.

The Government of Iraq, in condemning these acts of overt aggression, requests that you intervene with the Governments of the States in question with a view to bringing a halt to such acts, which violate international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq